



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/672,513	09/26/2003	Harold F. Beal	24652.05	1169
22465	7590	08/25/2004	EXAMINER	
PITTS AND BRITTIAN P C P O BOX 51295 KNOXVILLE, TN 37950-1295			JOHNSON, STEPHEN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3641	

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/672,513

Applicant(s)

BEAL, HAROLD F.

Examiner

Stephen M. Johnson

Art Unit

3641

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 25-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 25-34, 39 and 40 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 35-38 and 41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 25-41 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 3641

1. Applicant's election without traverse of the group III invention (claims 35-38) in the reply filed on 5/18/2004 is acknowledged.

Claims 35-38 and 41 read on the elected invention and an action on these claims follows. Claims 1-24 have been cancelled. Claims 25-34 and 39-40 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected inventions.

2. The drawings are objected to because numerical indicators 57, 59, and 49 (see page 11, lines 15-18). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the closed gas system;

Art Unit: 3641

bolt; and weapon (see claim 35) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). **No new matter should be entered.**

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. Claims 35-38 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 35, lines 8-9 and 11-12, how is the phrase "a projectile" intended to relate to the previously claimed "projectile" (see claim 35, line 3)? In claim 35, lines 12-12-13, what weight is intended by the phrase "the overall weight of a comparable sized lead projectile"? In claim 35, line 20, the phrase "said combination of weight" lacks an

Art Unit: 3641

antecedent. In claim 35, line 18, the phrase "said closed end" should be (said open end).

In claim 37, line 10, what density is intended by the phrase "the density of lead"? In

claim 37, line 11, what length is intended by the phrase "the full desired length of said compact"?

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stevenson et al. in view of Kirst et al..

Stevenson et al. disclose a method for making a round of ammunition comprising:

- a) a cartridge case having a closed and an open end; 19
- b) a quantity of gun powder to fill the case partially; 18
- c) a projectile closing said open end, extending at least 10, 12, 13 (see fig. 3)
1/3 into the case; and at least a portion extending
beyond the open end of the case;
- d) the projectile having an overall weight in excess of a col. 3, lines 27-36
comparable sized lead projectile;
- e) the combination of the weights exceeding a comparable col. 3, lines 27-40
weight of lead projectile and propellant; and
- f) muzzle velocity. col. 3, lines 49-50

Stevenson et al. apply as recited above. However, undisclosed is a method for

Art Unit: 3641

making a round of ammunition that has a subsonic muzzle velocity. Kirk et al. teach the substituting a low velocity propellant powder for a high velocity propellant powder (page 1, col. 2, lines 34-55 to page 2, col. 1, lines 1-26). Applicant is substituting one speed of propellant powder for another in an analogous art setting as explicitly encourage by the secondary reference (Kirk et al.). Such a substitution would slow down the velocity of the projectile exiting the muzzle to whatever speed would be desired. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art at the time of the invention to apply the teachings of Kirk et al. to the method of making a cartridge of Stevenson et al. and have a cartridge with a subsonic muzzle velocity.

It should be further noted that the muzzle velocity of projectile as it exits the muzzle is not only a function of the assembled cartridge but is also a function of characteristics of the firearm such as the length of the barrel and the degree of sealing between the projectile and the barrel. The same round of ammunition might have one muzzle velocity in one firearm and another muzzle velocity in another. Consequently, the characteristic of muzzle velocity is not solely but only partially a consequence of the method of manufacture of the round of ammunition.

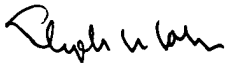
7. Claims 37-38 and 41 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lowden et al., Niemann, Rostocil, and Penner et al. disclose other state of the art methods for loading cartridges.

Art Unit: 3641

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. Johnson whose telephone number is 703-306-4158. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Carone can be reached on 703-306-4198. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-4177.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9326. The fax phone number for after final communications is (703) 872-9327.



STEPHEN M. JOHNSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Stephen M. Johnson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3641

SMJ